

City of Arlington, Texas

Frequently Asked Questions

October 2007



Crime Control and Prevention District

What is the Arlington CCPD?

It stands for Crime Control and Prevention District. It is a local entity with a Board that oversees the budget generated by sales and use tax. It is authorized by the Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 363. The boundaries of the Arlington Crime Control & Prevention District mirror those of the entire city. This means that its programs are applied to the entire city, not a specific area within it.

How many police officers will the Crime Control & Prevention District fund?

The Crime Control and Prevention District will fund 48 new police officer positions who will be assigned to four different areas. Twelve officers will work on Hot-Spot Enforcement and Assistance Teams. Twenty-four officers will add to the police force already engaged in neighborhood patrols. Seven officers will focus resources on gang, narcotics and sex offender enforcement; and five officers will work in a variety of programs assisting identified youth such as school resources and community outreach.

How long will Arlington have a CCPD?

The first vote is for a five-year period. The Local Government Code provides for future renewals of the ACCPD to be for 5, 10, 15 or 20 years. The ACCPD Board shall order a referendum to continue or dissolve the ACCPD by majority vote or upon presentation of a petition or if the majority of the City Council requests a referendum.

How much will a 1/8 cent sales tax increase cost me?

One-eighth of a cent in sales tax equals 12.5¢ for every \$100 in items purchased that are subject to local sales tax. Sales tax is not charged on basic necessities like groceries, housing, prescription and over the counter medications, or doctor bills.

Why a "temporary" board?

Local Government Code Chapter 363 calls for the governing body to appoint a seven-member temporary board of directors comprised of persons residing in the proposed district. If the ACCPD is approved by voters, the temporary board will be automatically dissolved and the City Council will appoint a permanent board.

Who will be the "permanent" board?

The City Council has three options in appointing the permanent board: (1) seven members who are appointed by the City Council; (2) nine members who are appointed by the City Council; or (3) the City Council may appoint itself as the nine-member board.

How will the money be spent?

Of the Year One budgeted funds:

66% will be used for Public Safety.

23% will be used for Code Enforcement/Neighborhood Improvements.

8% will be used for Youth, Family & Senior Initiatives.

3% will be used for Program Support.

Can spending be decreased?

The permanent board can amend the budget and will set an annual budget moving forward.

Can the cost be absorbed into the General Fund?

No. This is a separate account with an annual audit.

Why is part of the money being spent on youth activities?

The law specifically allows youth activities as part of a crime prevention program.

Is there anything in the Arlington Crime Control & Prevention District for seniors?

Besides the programs that will bring resources to the entire population such as more police officers, park safety patrols and increased resources for code enforcement, there is a specific program targeted at senior citizen internet and e-mail safety. The program will provide on-going free computer fraud and identity theft workshops to teach internet and e-mail skills as well as guidance on staying safe while utilizing these technologies.

FAQs

Arlington Crime Control and Prevention District

Why do we need another community court?

The community court will be focused on community safety issues and will provide a dedicated resource that can handle specific cases that influence neighborhood quality of life such as dilapidated structures, residential property code violations, panhandling, prostitution and excessive noise.

What will Neighborhood Coordinators do?

The Neighborhood Coordinators will work with residents to form crime watch groups and neighborhood associations. They will also assist in resolving barriers to a positive quality of life in neighborhoods by serving as a liaison between citizens and City departments.

What are the boundaries of the proposed Arlington Crime Control & Prevention District?

The boundaries of the Arlington Crime Control and Prevention District are the same as the City of Arlington's boundaries.

How can I learn more about the proposed Arlington Crime Control & Prevention District?

More information is available on the City's website at www.arlingtontx.gov. Residents are also encouraged to attend the town hall meetings to be hosted by City Council members (see dates to the right).

How can I be sure that spending that is currently in the General Fund won't be moved to the Arlington Crime Control & Prevention District over time?

The budget for the ACCPD will be set on an annual basis, just like the General Fund budget. This provides an annual opportunity for residents to review and

provide input on the priorities that are being funded through the ACCPD.

Additionally, the ACCPD budget must be set almost three months (80 days) before the beginning of the fiscal year. This will discourage consideration of both budgets at the same time and the displacement of General Fund expenses into the ACCPD.

Why isn't this program being funded through the City's annual General Fund budget?

The expected annual revenue growth from fiscal year 2007 to fiscal year 2008 is 3.79% or approximately \$7 million. This amount has been utilized to fund the maintenance and cost increases of staffing and programming for existing resident services. Additional funding needed to establish the level of public safety desired by the City Council is estimated to cost \$5.4 million in its first year. Generating a similar level of funding from Arlington's property tax would require a 3.3¢ rate increase.

Sales tax can be an unpredictable source of revenue. Why is it being used to fund this program?

Both the City Council and the ACCPD temporary board have expressed an interest in creating a reserve fund to guard against a downturn in sales tax revenue. In the two-year budget plan, the amount set aside in reserve is equal to one month of the ACCPD's estimated revenue or approximately 8% of the annual budget.

Town Hall Meetings

Date: Thu., Oct. 11
Time: 6:30-8 p.m.
Location: Council Chamber/City Hall, 101 W. Abram St.
Hosted by: Lana Wolff, District 5

Date: Mon., Oct. 15
Time: 6:30-8 p.m.
Location: Fire Training Center, 5501 Ron McAndrew Dr.
Hosted by: Kathryn Wilemon, District 4

Date: Tue., Oct. 16
Time: 7-8 p.m.
Location: Carol Holt Elementary - 7321 Ledbetter Rd.
Hosted by: Deputy Mayor Pro Tempore Sheri Capehart, District 2

Date: Wed., Oct. 17
Time: 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Location: Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.
Hosted by: Robert Rivera, District 3

Date: Thu., Oct. 18
Time: 6:30-8 p.m.
Location: River Legacy Living Science Center, 703 NW Green Oaks Blvd.
Hosted by: Mel LeBlanc, District 1